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McDonald et al.  
Serial No. 10/659,666  
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Amendments to the Claims:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, please cancel claims 25 and 47, and amend claims 24, 28 and 46 as indicated herein. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is provided immediately below.

**COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION**

Claims 1-23 (canceled).

24. (Currently amended) A fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly comprising:  
a fiber optic plug comprising:  
a plug body having a shroud proximate one end thereof, the shroud defining at least one opening; and  
a fiber optic connector disposed within the plug body and comprising a connector housing and a plug ferrule at least partially disposed within the connector housing; and  
a fiber optic receptacle for mating with the fiber optic plug, the fiber optic receptacle comprising:  
a receptacle housing defining an internal cavity opening through opposed ends;  
and  
an adapter sleeve disposed within the internal cavity defined by the receptacle housing, the adapter sleeve defining a lengthwise extending passage for receiving a portion of the plug ferrule of the fiber optic plug;  
wherein the shroud and the adapter sleeve are sized such that portions of the adapter sleeve are disposed within the at least one opening defined by the shroud once the plug ferrule of the fiber optic plug is inserted into the adapter sleeve; and  
wherein a fiber optic cable is coupled to the fiber optic receptacle from the plug body through a crimp band, such that tension applied to the fiber optic cable is therefore diverted away from the fiber optic connector.

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25. (Canceled).

26. (Original) The fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly according to claim 24, wherein the plug body extends lengthwise between a first end and a second end, the first end opposed to the second end, and the openings defined by the shroud extend lengthwise from at least a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the plug body.

27. (Original) The fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly according to claim 24, wherein the at least one opening defined by the shroud is a pair of openings aligned with one another.

28. (Currently amended) ~~The fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly according to claim 24,~~  
A fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly comprising:  
a fiber optic plug comprising:  
a plug body having a shroud proximate one end thereof, the shroud defining at  
least one opening; and  
a fiber optic connector disposed within the plug body and comprising a connector  
housing and a plug ferrule at least partially disposed within the connector housing; and  
a fiber optic receptacle for mating with the fiber optic plug, the fiber optic receptacle  
comprising:  
a receptacle housing defining an internal cavity opening through opposed ends;  
and  
an adapter sleeve disposed within the internal cavity defined by the receptacle  
housing, the adapter sleeve defining a lengthwise extending passage for receiving a  
portion of the plug ferrule of the fiber optic plug;  
wherein the shroud and the adapter sleeve are sized such that portions of the adapter  
sleeve are disposed within the at least one opening defined by the shroud once the plug ferrule of  
the fiber optic plug is inserted into the adapter sleeve; and  
wherein the lengthwise extending plug body defines a longitudinal axis, and wherein the  
plug body and further comprises:

a shaft proximate the shroud; and  
a collar for engaging the fiber optic receptacle, the collar disposed upon the shaft such that travel of the collar in the lengthwise direction is limited while permitting rotation of the collar about the longitudinal axis relative to the shaft.

Claims 29-45 (canceled).

46. (Currently amended) A fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly comprising:

a fiber optic receptacle; and

a fiber optic plug for mating with the fiber optic receptacle, the fiber optic plug comprising:

a fiber optic connector comprising a connector housing and a plug ferrule at least partially disposed within the connector housing and capable of being mounted upon an end portion of at least one optical fiber; and

a plug body extending lengthwise between a first end and a second end, the first end opposed from the second end, and having a shroud proximate the first end thereof, the shroud defining a pair of openings on opposite sides thereof, the openings extending lengthwise from at least a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the plug body; wherein the lengthwise extending plug body defines a longitudinal axis and the plug body

further comprises:

a shaft proximate the shroud; and

a collar for engaging the fiber optic receptacle, the collar disposed upon the shaft such that travel of the collar in the lengthwise direction is limited while permitting rotation of the collar about the longitudinal axis relative to the shaft.

47. (Canceled).